REPORT FROM
U.S. Senator
JESSE HELMS

WASHINGTON—In last week's report, I discussed some, but not all, of the gloring defects in the gasoline approved by Congress just before Christmas to increase the federal gasoline tax by five cents.

As you probably heard, the news media had a field day with the fact that some Senators were irritated because I refused to let this proposal slide through the Senate unopposed.

Many Senators were indeed unhappy, because their top priority was going home for Christmas. They were not in the mood to defer this 27½ billion dollar additional tax bite until adequate consideration could be given it. They just wanted to go home.

POLITICS—A number of highly respected Senators came to my defense against the attacks on me by Senator Kennedy, Senator Glenston, Senator Ford, and Senator Simpson. I suspect that you have read nothing at all about comments by Senator Russell Long of Louisiana, Senator Bill Armstrong of Colorado, and others. The comments by these Senators—in my defense—were buried in the news stories, if they were used at all.

Senator Ford of Kentucky made a blatantly political statement. He is a very partisan Senator who claims to be a great friend of the tobacco farmer. But I cannot forget that Senator Ford flatly refused to go to bat for the tobacco farmers back in July when I sought to cut down on the cigarette tax increase. I proposed that the taxes on beer, wine and hard liquor, along with cigarettes, be increased by the same percentage. (My proposal would have cut the cigarette tax increase down from eight cents to two cents; it would have increased the tax on beer about a penny a can, and on wine and hard liquor by a relatively small amount.) Senator Ford would not hear of it. Apparently he was more interested in his whiskey manufacturers in Kentucky than in his tobacco farmers.

One further note: When the survival of the tobacco program was on the line in the Senate last July, Senator Ford was able to persuade only 22 Democrats to vote to save the tobacco program. Had it not been for the 32 Republicans who voted to save the program, it would have been a disaster. So, when Senator Ford tries to play politics with the tobacco program, he should first look at his own efforts

KENNEDY—Senator Kennedy is—well, he is Ted Kennedy. I did not run for the Senate to win a popularity contest with Mr. Kennedy. I cannot think of anything in his personal or private life that I admire, and I suppose he feels the same way about me. So when he attacks me, as he frequently does, I consider it an honor.

As for trying to defeat this gasoline tax increase, I would do it all over again. It was one of the most tiring experiences of my life, but it was a fight that I felt should be waged.

REAGAN—I am obliged to say that I feel President Reagan's advisors did him great harm when they persuaded him to reverse his position on this proposal. Originally, he had been totally against it—and he was right the first time.

I still admire Ronald Reagan, but I will never be a yes-man for him or any other President. Nor will I refuse to take a stand when I believe that a worthy principle is at stake. I felt that this gasoline tax proposal was a bad bill, proposed at the wrong time and in the wrong manner.

The outcry from the liberal politicians and partisan editors was predictable. But in this instance, I don't believe the people will be fooled. I have been comforted—and grateful—to note the overwhelming support I have received from people all over the country. They know when they are being snookered.

Caring For Kids

(Continued from Page 8)

while), and some say that a pacifier gives the baby relief—although for use by young children, pacifiers must have very large shields to keep them out of the infants' mouths. Other parents claim the noise of a vacuum cleaner or washing machine is a dependable way of lulling or distracting the colicky baby

One tactic gives instant relief to the parent: getting away from the baby. The parent who has reached the limits of endurance must call on a relative or a close friend, hand the baby over, and go for a long walk, a cup of tea at someone else's house, a movie, window shopping, or a postpartum exercise class

Only one truth is absolute in dealing with a colicky infant; no parent should attempt any remedy or coping strategy without the full advice and support of a physician or a qualified nurse.

Finally, when the change comes at 12 to 14 weeks and the colic begins to fade, "Rosemary's Baby" goes away and in its place is a healthy, active, alert, inquisitive and charming infant.

The irony is that the 20 percent of all American newborns who have infant colic will never remember the discomfort of their first months. But for their parents, it will be hard to forget.

The founder of Detroit was a man named Cadillac. Antonio De La Mothe Cadillac, a French colonist, also served as governor of French Louisiana.

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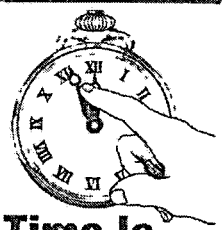

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